PATENT

Docket No.: CL/V-31987/WEJ1469

Cust. No. 001095

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

EXAMINER:

CARLSON, ET AL.

R. SERGENT

APPLICATION NO: 09/892,345

ART UNIT: 1711

FILED: JUNE 26, 2001

FOR: POLYURETHANE HYDROGEL CONTACT LENS

Honorable Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

March 18, 2003

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:
The Restriction/Election Requirement dated September 18, 2002 from Examiner R. Sergent of Art Unit 1711 has been received and reviewed. The following is in response thereto.

Application No.: 09/892,345

ELECTION

Examiner has required restriction to one of the inventions defined by Claims 1 - 11, 46, 55, and 56 (Group I) and Claims 12 – 45 and 47 – 54 (Group II).

Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I (Claims 1-11, 46, 55, and 56) for examination. In reference to Claims 55 and 56, applicants select the species of a precursor with isocyanate terminal groups. Claims 1-11, 46, 55, and 56 are readable thereon.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned.

Please address all correspondence to Novartis Corporation, Corporate Intellectual Property, One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430, East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees with may be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

Respectfully_submitted,

Robert J. Gorman, Jr.

Reg. No. 41,789 (678) 415.4389

Novartis Corporation Corporate Intellectual Property One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430 East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080

s:yc legal department/public/patents/prosecut\31987/restriction requirement.doc